



Retirement

LTC Embe Kugler, HQ STARC, ret 31 May 01

CW4 Randy Bonderman, HHC 1/285th Avn, TERA eff 30 Apr 01

CW4 George Pantelis, HHC 1/285th Avn, ret 31 May 01

MSG James Gawne, Det 4 STARC, ret 31 Jul 01

SFC Jose Alcorta, HHB 2/180th FA, ret 31 Jul 01

SFC Douglas Easterday, WAATS, TERA eff 30 Apr 01

SFC Ruben Lizardi, Det 4 STARC, ret 31 May 01

SFC David Dehoag, 2222nd TC, ret 30 Apr 01

SFC David Deihl, HHS 2/180th FA, ret 31 May 01

SSG Phillip Cartwright, Svc Btry 1/180th FA, ret 31 Jul 01

SSG Ralph Coppock, B Btry 1/180th FA, ret 31 Jul 01

RESIGNATIONS

SSG Craig Linton, Det 4 STARC, IST to PA eff 1 May 01

SFC Pamela Lizardi, HQ STARC, eff 20 May 01

SFC Jessie Bernal, HHC 1/285th, eff 5 May 01

SGT Sean McKenzie, 385th Avn, eff 29 May 01.

NEW AGR HIRES

(Months of Jan – May)

LTC Hugo Salazar, MOB OFFICER
CPT John Stahl, HHC 1/285th
CW3 Clifford Cox, WAATS
SFC Edward Pulver, A Co 1/285th
SFC Patrick Simmons, HHC 1/285th
SFC Mark Fillman, Det 4 STARC
SSG Demain Castillo, Det 4 STARC
SSG Kelly Hanak, WAATS
SSG Sherry Hoover, C 111th Med Co
SSG Joshua Lopez, Det 1 2222nd TC
SGT Kurt Krause, Det 4 STARC
SGT Deon Lotshaw, HHC 1/285th
SGT Lorenzo Medina, HHC 1/285th
SPC Richard Gusman, HQ STARC
SPC Antonio Trujillo, Det 1 1404th

WELCOME ADDITION TO AGR SECTION!!

The AGR office welcomes SFC Greg Reese. SFC Reese recently transferred to the AGR Section from Technician Classification. SFC Reese will be handling both Army and Air Classifications from now on.

DFAS/LES UPDATE

The AGR Office is now receiving the DFAS LES file directly from MILPAY and are able to print LESs on or about the 27th of each month. If anyone is missing their LES please call this office directly from now on. We cannot make changes directly to DFAS but can print an LES as long as it has been forwarded from DFAS.

NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond our control, LESs for the EOM April will be late. Sorry for the inconvenience.

TRICARE PRIME CO-PAYMENTS DISAPPEAR

As a reminder most co-payments will disappear and others will change for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who are family members of active duty service members, thanks to the passed 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The new law which took effect April 1, 2001, eliminates the co-payment for civilian health care services with two exceptions: pharmacy services and services provided under the Program For Persons With Disabilities (PFPWD). Point-of-Service (POS) charges will remain in effect on and after April 1, 2001. Network providers should no longer bill Prime ADFM patients for co-payments for dates of service on or after April 1, 2001.



ENROLLING IN THE TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM (TDP)

To enroll in the TDP, the sponsor must complete a TDP Enrollment Form. TDP enrollment applications are available from Health Benefits Advisors, Dental Treatment Facilities, or Uniformed Service Personnel Offices. Sponsors may also download and print a copy of the enrollment form from the website at www.ucci.com or call 1-888-622-2256. Additionally, beginning February 1, 2001

individuals with Internet access may enroll online with a credit card.

In addition to the completed reenrollment form, sponsors must include an initial payment equal to his or her portion of one month's premium. Payment can be made by check, money order, Master Card or Visa. The enrollment form and payment should be submitted to the address on the back of the form.

If TDP receives the completed TDP Enrollment Form (and payment) by the 20th of the month, coverage is effective the first day of the month following receipt. However, if the application is received after the 20th, enrollment may not be effective until the first day of the second month.

It is recommended that the sponsor contact UCCI's customer service department by telephone to confirm coverage before receiving initial treatment.



Effective February 1, 2001 all inquiries concerning enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program are to be referred to United Concordia Companies Incorporated (UCCI) at 1-888-622-2256. Dental issues not involving enrollment should be addressed to United Concordia's website at <http://www.ucci.com> or at 1-800-866-8499. All dental error resolution issues under this new program should be directed to UCCI. When UCCI encounters a DEER/RAPIDS enrollment inconsistency, they will direct the soldier to visit their local RAPIDS site to correct DEERS.

Every effort should be made to assist the soldier. If the RAPIDS site representative is unable to correct the problem through DEERS/RAPIDS, they (not the soldier) can contact the DEERS/RAPIDS Project Office at telephone number: (703) 325-9590/4529/4525/8941 or DSN:221-9590/4529/4525/8941 or Email: Mr. Jackson: jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil -

Mrs. Hines: hinesj@hoffman.army.mil.

Special Note: There has recently been changes to some of the dental covered services offered. It is a good idea to visit the UCCI website and download the new benefits booklet at:

<http://www.ucci.com/tdp/TDPBenefitBooklet.pdf>

USEFUL WEBSITES

For more information on United Concordia Dental Care visit their website at:

<http://www.ucci.com>

Having problems finding a provider for your dependants. Check out the TRIWEST website at:

<http://www.triwest.com>

LAFB Locator (photo lab, commissary, etc.), also the site for medical and dental appointments and phone numbers:

http://www.enlisted.com/be/AZ_LUK_E_AFB/AZ_LUKE_AFB.shtml

Interested in a Title 10 position at National Guard Bureau. Look for the latest ARNG Title 10 AGR information on the NGB home page at:

<http://www.arng.ngb.army.mil>

**Click on the T under quick search and look for Title 10 positions and T-10 application procedures.

Department of Defense home page: <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

If you are interested in finding out more about ACAP (Army Career and Alumni Program) provides transition services for all separating personnel and their families. <http://www.acap.army.mil>

If you are interest in finding out more information concerning the wearing of the new beret.

http://www.sbcom.army.mil/products/cie/beret_wearing.htm

NEW SGLV COVERAGE EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2001

As a reminder, the Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI), will automatically increase to \$250,000 effective April 1, 2001. Current premium payment of \$.80 per \$ 10,000 of coverage will continue, resulting in an additional \$4.00 premium being withheld from each member's pay for SGLI. As an example, for those members who currently have the maximum coverage amount of \$200,000, the premium payment per month is \$16.00. With the increase in coverage, the premium will now be \$20.00 per month for the maximum coverage. A remark will appear on the February 2001 Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), advising of this rate increase.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IT IS VERY IMPORTANT:

If a member desires the full increased coverage (\$250,000), no action is necessary. However, if any member desires a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, that member must prepare a new VA SGLV 8286, indicating the desired amount of coverage, or no coverage. This form, to elect a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, must be prepared, signed, dated, and submitted **no earlier than April 1, 2001 and no later than April 30, 2001.** Any requests for reduced coverage, or no coverage, received during this period will result in a refund of any over-collection of the premium in the month of April. The April 1 to April 30, 2001 time frame is critical. Requests for reduced SGLI coverage, or no SGLI coverage dated and received after April 30, 2001 will be processed to reduce the coverage, or stop the coverage, effective in May 2001, but will not result in a refund of the maximum premium withheld for the month of April 2001.

Questions regarding SGLI should be directed to your personnel office. Request widest dissemination of this information to all active component and active guard and reserve members of your command.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPENS TO ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS

Subject: Thrift Savings Plan Opens to Military October 9, 2001.

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2001 -- Service members can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, 2001, DoD officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include service members in 2000.

"It's in addition to your regular retirement," said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DoD's Office of Military Compensation. "It's an optional program."

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions start in January 2002. In 2002, service members can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay. The maximum amount service members can contribute from basic pay will change. The current limit of 7 percent of basic pay will rise to 10 percent by 2005 and become unlimited in 2006.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, service members may also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive.

"You can contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan," Emswiler said.

The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone do not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat zone contributions are subject to a different limitation, however, 25% of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, service members must choose how they want their money invested. Right now, there are three funds to choose from. The funds run the gamut of safe -- the G Fund invests in special government bonds -- to riskier investments -- the C Fund tied to the stock market. There is also an F Fund for investing in commercial bonds.

TSP will unveil the new S and I funds in May. S Fund investments go to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

Service members will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons held each year. These are November to January and May to July.

"Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay and you receive, for example, a re-enlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time," Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from "pre-tax" dollars. Service members pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they're withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting members to explain the program. Until then, see the <http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html> uniformed services page www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html for more information.

NOTE: This is a plain text version of a web page. If your mail program did not properly format this information, current News Articles are online at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/#News>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pentagon/>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/subscribe.html>

CSB/REDUX NOTIFICATION, COUNSELING AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Implementing message for CSB/REDUX

Army retirement website:
<http://www.odcsper.army.mil/retire>
(scroll to CSB/REDUX/DIEMS)

Uniserve website:
<http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html>

DOD Military Pay Website:
<http://pay2000.dtic.mil>
(changing to <http://militarypay.dtic.mil>)

AR-PERSCOM website:
<http://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil>

This message provides implementing procedures for determining eligibility, notification, counseling, and election of the career status bonus (CSB)/REDUX retired pay option (CSB/REDUX) enacted by PL 106-65, 5 Oct 99.

VERIFICATION OF MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING WEBSITE

The web site below is a DMDC website that provides a verification of military experience and training (VMEIT). In seconds the website will pull all of your military education and experience by accessing the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) and the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS).

The site does not generate an official transcript for purposes of granting college credit, but it can be used to support training and/or course requirements to qualify for civilian occupations, certificates, licenses, or programs of study. Access is restricted and requires the Name, SSN, Date of Birth and current status of the service member.

Please ensure widest dissemination of this information to all ARNG soldiers. POC is the undersigned.

https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet/owa/vmet_web_display.login

MSG Ken Hardy
ARNG Benefits Manager
National Guard Bureau (NGB-ARH-P)
DSN 327-3871, Com: 703-607-3871
FAX: 703-607-5852

Helpful Education Links:

<http://www.arngi.org>
(ARNG Institute)
<http://www.voled.doded.mil>
(DOD Voluntary Ed Programs)
<http://www.soc.aascu.org>
(SOC Guard)
<http://www.gibill.va.gov>
(Veterans Administration)
<http://www.armyeducation.army.mil>
<http://www.military.com/Careers/Education>

AGR OFFICE PHONE LISTING

Our office symbol is AZAA-HR-A

COL Richard Palmatier,
AGR Manager at 602-267-2485

SFC Judy Carlson
AGR Personnel SGT at 602-267-2948

MSG Pauline F. Gonzalez
Military Personnel Spec 602-267-2453

SFC Gregory Reese 602-267-2960
Classification Tech



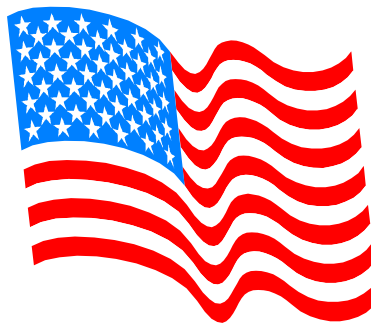
AGR HANDBOOK

If you are new to the AGR program or even been around a while there is a lot of valuable information in the AGR Handbook, and it is available by email or it can be downloaded from the HRO website at <http://www.az.ngb.army.mil/hro>



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY !!!!!

Monday, May 28th
Remembering those who served!!!!



Sunday May 13th